

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

DECEMBER 2003



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development

## Final notice !

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## Unemployment rates down from November 2002

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the Eau Claire-Chippewa metropolitan area declined for the 4<sup>th</sup> straight month in November to the lowest level since July 2001. The November unemployment rate for the metro area was 4.5 percent, down from 4.8 percent in October and from 5.1 percent one year ago. The current rate remains well below both the state seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 5.0 percent and the national rate in November of 5.9 percent.

Before seasonal adjustment, the number of unemployed in the Eau Claire-Chippewa area increased by 170 residents, a much smaller increase than is typical for the month. Also atypical was an increase in the number of employed. Out of a total labor force (not seasonally adjusted) of 86,280 in November, 82,900 were employed and 3,390 were unemployed. The unadjusted unemployment rate was 3.9 percent.

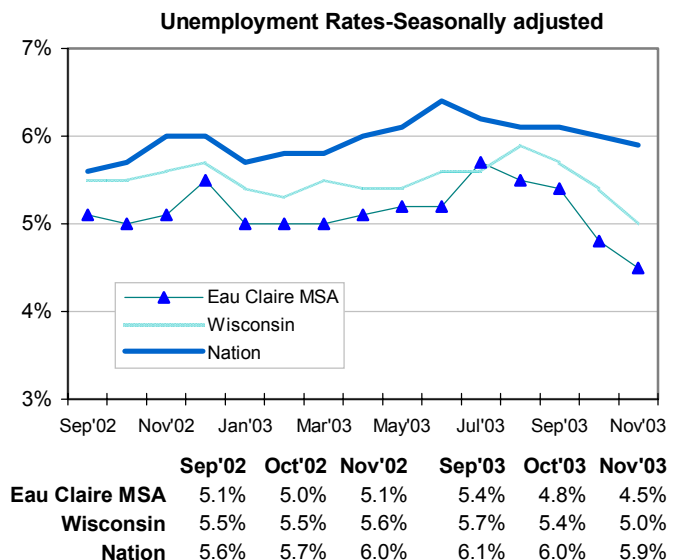
All metropolitan areas in the state and the State of Wisconsin posted a lower unemployment rate in November. The highest unemployment rate among the metro areas was 7.9 percent in Racine while Madison claimed the lowest rate of 2.8 percent.

The increase in total employment was more than the net change in nonfarm jobs in the two-county area. Nonfarm jobs, now numbering 77,300, did not change from October to November a period when they typically do. Some industries did post seasonal

losses, however.

Construction employment declined by 200 jobs to a November count of 2,900 and the leisure and hospitality sector lost 300 workers to settle at 7,000 jobs.

Unemployment rates in all of the other seven counties of West Central Wisconsin increased during the month, as did the unemployment rates in 40 of the state's 72 counties. However, 60 counties posted lower unemployment rates compared with one year ago including all but one county in the region. The un-



## November Civilian Labor Force Estimates, not seasonally adjusted, for West Central Wisconsin counties

	Barron			Chippewa			Clark			Dunn			Eau Claire Co.		
	Nov '03	Oct '03	Nov '02	Nov '03	Oct '03	Nov '02	Nov '03	Oct '03	Nov '02	Nov '03	Oct '03	Nov '02	Nov '03	Oct '03	Nov '02
Civilian labor force	25,006	25,459	24,150	31,640	31,504	31,398	16,165	16,256	15,583	23,890	23,832	23,358	54,642	54,470	54,164
Employed	23,684	24,213	22,890	30,201	30,152	29,778	15,349	15,504	14,652	23,154	23,120	22,515	52,687	52,600	51,949
Unemployed	1,322	1,246	1,260	1,439	1,352	1,620	816	752	931	736	712	843	1,955	1,870	2,215
% unemployed	5.3	4.9	5.2	4.5	4.3	5.2	5.0	4.6	6.0	3.1	3.0	3.6	3.6	3.4	4.1
	Pepin			Pierce			Polk			St. Croix			West Central region		
	Nov '03	Oct '03	Nov '02	Nov '03	Oct '03	Nov '02	Nov '03	Oct '03	Nov '02	Nov '03	Oct '03	Nov '02	Nov '03	Oct '03	Nov '02
Civilian labor force	3,440	3,501	3,277	21,284	21,203	21,041	23,789	23,891	23,370	37,484	37,178	37,029	237,340	237,294	233,370
Employed	3,313	3,388	3,119	20,501	20,432	20,126	22,631	22,819	22,035	35,537	35,418	34,888	227,057	227,646	221,952
Unemployed	127	113	158	783	771	915	1,158	1,072	1,335	1,947	1,760	2,141	10,283	9,648	11,418
% unemployed	3.7	3.2	4.8	3.7	3.6	4.3	4.9	4.5	5.7	5.2	4.7	5.8	4.3	4.1	4.9

\* not seasonally adjusted

# Industry Employment Estimate for West Central Wisconsin: Current month - November 2003

(Employment in thousands)	Barron			Clark			Dunn			Pepin		
	Nov '03	Oct '03	Nov '02	Nov '03	Oct '03	Nov '02	Nov '03	Oct '03	Nov '02	Nov '03	Oct '03	Nov '02
Total Nonfarm	22.0	22.4	21.8	10.1	10.2	9.9	16.6	16.5	16.5	2.4	2.4	2.3
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.2
Manufacturing	6.0	6.3	6.2	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Trade	3.5	3.5	3.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.7	2.7	2.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Transportation & Utilities	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.1	0.1	0.1
Financial Activities	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1
Education & Health Services	2.3	2.3	2.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Leisure & Hospitality	1.8	1.9	1.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.6	1.7	1.5	0.4	0.5	0.3
Info/Prof.& Bus.Serv./Other	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total Government	4.9	4.9	4.6	2.2	2.1	2.1	4.6	4.4	4.8	0.5	0.5	0.6
	Pierce			Polk			St. Croix			Eau Claire MSA		
	Nov '03	Oct '03	Nov '02	Nov '03	Oct '03	Nov '02	Nov '03	Oct '03	Nov '02	Nov '03	Oct '03	Nov '02
Total Nonfarm	10.7	10.4	10.8	15.1	15.2	15.2	27.5	27.9	27.0	77.3	77.3	78.3
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.9	1.9	1.7	2.9	3.1	3.3
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	0.8	3.7	3.7	3.9	5.5	5.8	6.0	10.1	10.1	11.3
Trade	0.9	0.9	1.2	2.0	2.0	2.0	4.5	4.4	4.2	13.6	13.1	12.9
Transportation & Utilities	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.8	2.8	2.8
Financial Activities	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.5	1.1	1.1	1.0	3.8	3.8	3.7
Education & Health Services	1.1	1.1	1.1	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.9	2.9	2.8	12.5	12.5	12.3
Leisure & Hospitality	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	3.4	3.6	3.1	7.0	7.3	7.1
Information/Prof.& Bus.Serv.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.4	3.5	3.6	3.4	7.9	8.0	7.9
Other Services	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.8	3.8	3.7
Total Government	3.9	3.5	3.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.7	3.7	3.8	12.9	12.8	13.3

Current month preliminary. Estimates based on March 2002 benchmark. Summing from unrounded numbers.

employment rate in Barron County in November of 5.3 percent was higher than the 5.2 percent rate of one year ago and the 4.9 percent in October.

Out of a total labor force in Barron County of 25,000 in November, 1,320 were unemployed, 60 more than in November 2002. The loss of 400 jobs in November was greater than in other West Central counties and triggered the higher unemployment rate. Nearly all of that reduction occurred with manufacturing employers. This reduction affects not only workers from Barron County but also workers from neighboring counties who commute to county jobs

The number of jobs with all employers in West Central Wisconsin declined by 630 in November. Like the reduction in the metropolitan area, losses in the region were dominated by seasonal changes that effect jobs with construction and leisure and hospitality employers. Construction employers reduced payroll by 400 jobs in November while leisure and hospitality employers trimmed 800 jobs.

Some employers, primarily those in trade, added workers as they prepared for the increase in seasonal shoppers. And, state and local government jobs increased in November but remain 300 shy of the total number of jobs one year ago.

Compared to last November there are 100 fewer

jobs in the region. The local job market, like that in Wisconsin, remains sluggish in spite of the generally positive news about the national economy. This is especially true in the manufacturing sector where there are 2,000 fewer jobs than one year ago.

The number of total employed in the West Central region in November was 227,060 out of a total labor force 237,340. There were 10,280 unemployed resulting in an unemployment rate of 4.3 percent. The November rate is higher than the 4.1 percent in October but lower than 4.9 percent in November 2002.

The number of residents in West Central Wisconsin that filed claims for unemployment compensation benefits rose from 4,180 in mid-October to 5,065 by mid-November. The number takes another big jump by mid-December to 6,665. These numbers represent little change from one year ago. Of the total number of claimants in mid-December 2,770 were residents of Chippewa and Eau Claire counties while the remaining 3,890 were residents of the seven rural counties.

Initial claims for benefits have been fluctuating slightly above and below the number filed twelve months earlier. In mid-December, local residents filed 1,090 initial claims, 150 more than in the same week one year ago. This would indicate that unemployment will increase in December, as it has in most years.

**Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: [WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI](http://WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI)**

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